



Twin City Iris Society

News and Views

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mr. Nelson Coon has written a short article in the News and Views of the American Horticulture Society titled "I Lean Back". In it he expresses doubt that we who grow the ornamentals in our garden ever relax enough to enjoy "our gardening efforts"! He quotes from the work of Ibn Quzman, an Arabic poet who wrote about 1130 A.D. as follows:

"The boughs of the trees are trembling with their ornaments, and the dew has covered them with its pearls; the flowers exhale perfumes on all sides - and the fragrance of the yellow ones."

Harvest time allows us to enjoy the rewards of the garden. More important, it provides us with time for planning and reflection; for preparation for the winter and next years' effort in the garden, along with reflection on this past year's triumph and trouble. An especially well formed bloom, fragrance where least expected, little pleasures remembered now are the rewards of the garden.

There is a way to enjoy gardening even more in the months ahead. Somewhere in this issue the nominating committee should have a list of candidates for election for 1970. These people need cooperation for committee assignments and activities in the coming year. I'm sure they would welcome an offer for your services and for your preference of committee assignment. Committee work is more than a chance to participate actively. It produces a sense of belonging. It produces an opportunity wherein an individual can add his knowledge, and gain from others as well.

Lean back now and consider how and where you wish to serve. The members of committees are as important as the chairmen and don't think you aren't needed. Try these for size; Program, Show, Membership, Publicity, Auction, Scientific, Library, Reception, Historian and Social committees. Some need only one person - most need more to be effective.

The society needs you and these committees need you, so don't wait to be asked. Drop a note to next years' officers and be considered.

- Warren Johnson

PRESIDENT -

Warren Johnson
2545 - 33rd Ave So
Mpls, Minn 55406

1st VICE-PRES-

Wilbert Sindt
Rte #4 Box 276
Stillwater, Minn
55082

2nd VICE-PRES-

Julius Wadekamper
Shattuck School
Faribault, Minn
55021

TREASURER-

Manfred Warmuth
3656 Gettysburg No
Mpls, Minn 55427

RECORDING SEC-

Virginia Messer
Route 2 Box 280
Excelsior, Minn
55331

EDITOR-

Mary Duvall
4019 - 41st Ave So
Mpls, Minn 55406

SEPTEMBER 18, 1969 - 8PM - Guananty State Bank

Our program will highlight the bizarre and beautiful ARILBRED IRISES, with a talk on the culture of Arilbreds, and the showing of slides from the Aril International Iris Society.

These were shown at the National Convention and Glenn Hanson has been able to secure them for this meeting. He will also show some of his own fine slides.

This should be of great interest to Arilbred fans and, we hope, stimulate interest in those who do not grow them. Be sure not to miss this meeting. Glenn's presentation, I know, will be an inspiration to us all - to grow more than varieties of tall-bearded and dwarf irises.

- Alice Stenoien

NOTICE -

The Seventh District Horticultural Society is sponsoring Session I of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society Judging and Exhibiting School on Saturday, September 20, 1969, in White Bear Lake. Registration will begin at 8:15, with the first lecture starting promptly at 9 o'clock. Lectures will be given on Judging Ethics and Show Procedure, Horticulture, and Design, with written tests at the end of the instruction day. Tests are required of those desiring to become judges and an excellent review of material is covered in the lectures. I would hope everyone would want to take them. For anyone interested in the classes, please contact Gus Sindt for further information.

- Gus Sindt

from the Nominating Committee -

Slate of Officers for 1970 -

President - Julius Wadekamper
1st Vice-President - Glenn Hanson
2nd Vice-President - Ed Holloway
Secretary - Virginia Messer
Treasurer - Manfred Wormuth
Corresponding Secretary - Gertrude Hain
Board of Directors - Urban Ipsen
Gus Sindt
Maybelle Wright

- Submitted by S. Rudser

NEW MEMBERS -

Mrs. Peter A. Recht , 9416 Portland Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn. Zone 20
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Bero , 2942 Oliver Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minn. 55411
Mr. Helmer Greguson , 6544 Flying Cloud Drive, Eden Prairie, Minn. 55343
Evelyn Hayes , 18884 Idaho Avenue, Lemoore, California 93245

Calendar of Events -

Sept. 16 Lake Owasso garden club annual flower show, "Now Showing in the Twin Cities." 10AM-8PM, Har Mar Mall Community Room, 2100 North Snelling Ave. and County Road "B".
Oct. 5 ARBORETUM FAIR.

The REINHARDT'S GARDEN - 1969 Convention

The sky was gray, and there was a chill in the air, accompanied by a fine mist, when our bus pulled up in front of the Reinhardt home. We walked up the drive, past beds of Irises, to be greeted by the friendly welcome of Mattie and Robert Reinhardt. Many of the Irises were in bud, as elsewhere, but those in bloom were beautiful, their color brightening the drab morning. The architecture of their lovely home, in its setting of shrubs, evergreens, and old-fashioned roses in bloom, was like a picture of Old World charm.

The flower beds were laid out with winding paths, and the Irises were often backgrounded with blooming perennials, Lupines, Peonies, Bleeding Heart, Daylilies and others I was not familiar with. It was an informal garden, with paths leading to so many interesting places, such as one that led to the back of the lot where their seedlings were in bloom. Their seedling 66-H-12 looked very fine.

The Irises in bloom that were most noteworthy in my opinion, were as follows: Plough's "French Lace", lovely lacy white, with a yellow infusion - also his "Strange Magic", a medium blue with dark blue beard, Carlson's "Flame and Sand", beige buff with red beard, Gaskill's lovely light pink "Midwest Morning", Art Blodgett's "Gala Rose", winner of the President's Cup. Mr. Steve Varner's "Miss Illini" stole the show in this garden and was lovely wherever seen. It is a vivid gold yellow in color, with sturdy, beautifully branched stalks, thick substance and large flowers, flaring and lightly laced. It was runner-up for the President's Cup. To me, it was a "must have" and I am happy to be able to look forward to its bloom in my garden. We also saw Knopf's "West Coast" and "Sunny Splendor" by Schreiner. Certainly these are three of the finer yellows of today. Tucker's "Night Heron" is a reverse amoena - standard blue with a deep purple infusion, falls slate blue, beard white and yellow. Different and beautiful.

I must also mention seeing Robert Reinhardt's beautiful wood-carving pictures of Iris on a wooden frame background. They were absolutely beautiful, and certainly worth a small fortune. Mr. Reinhardt admitted it took him about 200 hours work on each one! They were unbelievably authentic.

Long before we were ready to leave, we heard the Bus captain's horn, signalling us to leave for the next garden. I managed to get a quick picture of Mattie and her husband on their porch steps; but no picture could do justice to Mattie's sweet charm, or her husband's genuine friendliness. We hope to visit their garden again, some day, when the sun is shining and their lovely Irises are in full bloom.

- Alice Foss Stenoien

Fran Ehle reports on Aril bloom in her garden -

She grows 24 varieties, some added this summer. They are in a bed by themselves, in sandy soil, with pea rock added.

Varieties especially liked this year were Kalifa Gulnare, which grew at 28-30", Mohr Delight, and Nineveh. Others which bloomed were Mohr Lemonade, Mohr Haven, Speckled Bird, Jazz Baby, Tatai Pasha, Saffron Jewel, Front Row, Golden Joppa, Striped Butterfly, Spring Nocturne, Hot Toddy, and Jade.

Imaret, Melody Waters did not bloom. Beisan Aga didn't bloom, didn't increase, a very slow grower...

BOOK REVIEW -

"IRISES" by Harry Randall

Reviewed by Julius Wadekamper

IRISES by Harry Randall, published by B. V. Batsford Ltd. 4 Fitzhardinge Street, Portman Square, London W1 (£2.25 or \$5.40) is intelligently and entertainingly written. The forward is by John Wister.

Harry Randall, now deceased, has made a valuable addition to the field of iris literature. Chapters are included on all sections of irises: species, bulbous, Siberians, Japanese, spurias, Pacific coast, Louisianas, tall bearded and median irises.

What Constitutes a Good Iris - the subject of chapter 6 should be required reading for all judges and potential judges. Other chapters that are very good include, A Background History, and Famous Tall Bearded Parents, chapters 5 and 9 respectively. The last chapters on the Raising of Iris Seedlings and the Cultivation of Bearded Irises are worth the price of the book alone. The appendix covers Exhibiting Irises, Photographing Irises, American Iris Conventions, Kew Gardens and Presby, Registration of Iris Names and Irises in Art and Antiquity.

IRISES as well as being informative is very well written. Harry Randall used his English wit for writing lines that live: about bulbous irises he writes: "my wife was so impressed by them once more that she suggested that we should mass them together in a prominent position; but as that would leave a bare patch for a large part of the year I shall obviously have to indulge in a little bit of : : diplomacy." Mary Randall's two brothers were able to quote nursery catalogs to show that their sister "had tough substance, was broad in the hafts, had a red beard and was good for breeding."

Mr. Randall is not afraid to express his opinion, and he respects the opinion of others as well. On the subject of horned irises he says, "From time to time a seedling will appear with an abnormality in some part of the flower which, by further breeding, can be enlarged and made a recognizable feature of a whole strain of irises. This happened some years ago in America with the result that 'horned' or 'flounced' irises were raised with protruberances of various shapes and sizes emerging from the falls. In time these enlargements could be made even larger and the whole shape and appearance of the iris could be altered. Once more, artistic sense has prevailed, and these abnormalities have been ignored by growers of repute and good taste. In my view these unsightly growths would lower the status of the iris as a garden flower of beauty and refinement."

For an authoratative book on irises, well written, one in which every line reveals something of interest and importance to the iris grower, IRISES by Harry Randall fills the bill.

"Marigolds in the Garden " (Horticulture, Sept, 1969) by P. M. Miller and J. F. Ahrens discribes how Marigolds can be used in the garden for nematode control. Marigold roots produce a chemical called terthienyls which kills the nematodes as the chemicals are released into the soil. They must be grown all season to provide effective control, which lasts for two or three years.

One suggested method for using marigolds is to interplant them with other plants, in rows a foot apart, if a crop rotation is not feasible..

JAPANESE IRISES

One question which seems to crop up frequently is--can we raise Japanese Irises in this area? The answer is--definitely yes! There is no reason whatever to deny ourselves the exotic beauty of these huge, colorful Japs, because they will come through our winters with no more protection than we customarily give our tall-bearded. However, they do have two definite requirements which can't be ignored, a moderately acid soil and an abundance of water up to their blooming time, which is a few weeks later than the tall-bearded. Neither of these requirements is difficult to meet.

Acid soil seldom occurs naturally in this part of the country, where most of our soil is of limestone origin. However, it presents no great problem. I prefer to disregard all of the usually recommended methods and do it the easy way--with evergreen needles. The rakings from under a single good-sized spruce, worked into the ground around the plants once a year, will keep a lot of Japs perfectly healthy and happy. The ideal solution to the water requirement is to plant them in a low, damp place where tall-bearded won't survive, if you happen to have such a spot. If not, it is a simple matter to provide artificial watering until they bloom, and after that it won't matter. The spectacular size and coloring of the modern Japs, and the continuation of bloom after the tall-bearded season is over, more than repaid the insignificant amount of fussing they require.

- Glenn Hanson

- from News and Views, April, 1964

SUCCESSFUL SHOW AT BAGLEY

by Fern Aamodt

At the recent Iris and Peony Show held at the Bagley Congregational Church, 23 people from Bemidji, Erskine, Gonvick, and Bagley brought flowers. Of the 181 exhibits there were 136 stalks of iris, the rest being peonies and arrangements. Sweepstake winners were Mrs. Frank Mershman in the Horticultural Class and Mrs. Elmer Walde in the arrangement class. Each received a purple rosette. Others receiving purple rosettes for the best in each section were as follows: Dr. Ruth Brune Mangelsdorf of Bemidji, best iris which was Blue Sapphire; Mrs. Frank Mershman, Bagley, best Siberian Iris; Mrs. Art Sannes, Erskine, best peony; Mrs. Elmer Walde, Bagley, best peony arrangement; Mrs. Lulu Skare, Bagley, best Iris arrangement; Mrs. C. Welte, Bagley, best spring flower arrangement. Harold Thomforde of Crookston judged the show. The guest book was signed by 140 people. The Bagley Garden Club wishes to thank all who exhibited and all who visited the show and helped in any way to make it a success.

from a Robin letter I recieved the other day -

"Mary, do you mean they put on the Milwaukee convention without a regional organization to back them up? My gosh, that's terrific. They did a fine job, and you can't hold the weather against them for it being a bud convention." - Ed.

Several kinds of wild flowers are protected in Minnesota. These include the showy ladyslipper(*Cypripedium reginae*) and all other Orchids, Trilliums of all kinds, lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*), gentians of all kinds, trailing arbutis, and all species of lilies.

Excerpts from

NEMATODES AND ROSES

D. H. MacDonald, K. P. Patel and L. H. Fuchigami

Nematodes are among the most numerous animals in the soil. They are small, non-segmented roundworms that live in the film of water between and surrounding soil particles. Studies made in Europe show that from 1.5 to 100 million nematodes may be present in the soil under a square yard of sod. Fortunately, most of the nematodes in the soil feed on bacteria, fungi, other nematodes, and other animals; therefore they do not directly affect plant growth.

Only about 1100-1200 species of the estimated 500,000 species of nematodes are known to feed on higher plants. Plant-parasitic nematodes feed on or within plant roots and other plant parts, are almost always considerably less than one-tenth of an inch in length, and all possess a protrusible and usually hollow stylet or spear that the animals use to puncture cell walls and in feeding. Most of the plant-parasitic nematodes present in Minnesota have been established here for thousands of years. Others have been introduced into this area in the roots of bare-root plants and in the infested soil around the roots of potted plants.

Parasitic nematodes can damage the host plant 1) by removing a portion of the contents of the parasitized cells, 2) by liberating enzymes that cause the parasitized and surrounding cells to die, 3) by injecting chemicals into the plant tissues that cause the roots to stop growing or to grow abnormally with the formation of knots or galls, and 4) by producing wounds that make it easier for fungi and bacteria to infect the plant.

It is important to recognize that the actions and activities of these organisms mentioned above all may contribute to a gradual decline in the health of the host that may take several years to become apparent or that may never become serious if the other requirements (nutrition, water, adequate exposure to sunlight, insect and disease control) are maintained near the optimum for the growth of the host plant.

Nematodes in Minnesota Gardens

During the summer of 1966, we collected one to three soil samples from each of 80 rose gardens... One-half pint of soil from each sample was processed in the laboratory by a washing-sieving procedure designed to separate the nematodes and other small soil organisms from the soil particles. Nematodes recovered in this manner were examined under the microscope and identified to genus. A total of ten different genera of plant-parasitic nematodes were commonly found; specimens belonging to from one to a maximum of six of these genera were present in 94 percent of the samples.

The following five genera of nematodes were identified most often; Paratylenchus (pin nematode - 69 percent of the samples). Helicotylenchus (spiral nematode - 53 percent), Pratylenchus (lesion nematode - 49 percent), Tylenchorhynchus (stunt nematode - 49 percent, and Xiphinema (dagger nematode - 36 percent). Specimens of nematodes belonging to any one of the other five genera were not found in more than 8 percent of the samples.

No consistent relationship was apparent between cultural practices (such as mulches) used in the gardens and the size of the nematode populations present in the soil. However, soil samples taken from around plants growing in heavier soils-heavy loams and clay loams for example - tended to contain fewer nematodes than did samples from lighter soils... These findings are in agreement with those of other workers who have shown that plant parasitic nematodes frequently are most numerous in the lighter soils....

reprinted from Minnesota Science